



East English Village Association

History

The first subdivision, once part of Moran Farms, was named Grosse Pointe Manor and was developed in 1913. This subdivision included land along Audubon, Whittier and Kensington streets between Mack and East Warren. Grosse Pointe Villa, another subdivision, was developed around 1915. This second subdivision included the east side of Poupard (now called Yorkshire) from Mack to East Warren. Between 1926 and 1930, Yorkshire was developed between East Warren and Harper as Poupard Woodlands. Simultaneously, Bishop, between Mack and East Warren, was being developed as Poupard Estates. In 1924, the Eastern Heights Land Company began to develop land parcels along both sides of Kensington between East Warren and Harper. Also in 1924, The Charles Dunn Trust, Paul Deronne and the Voigt family developed the Scully's Voigt farmlands on Harvard and Cadieux between Mack and Harper.

Subsequently, by 1925, most of the area had been subdivided into residential parcels. The actual construction of the homes did not really begin to boom until approximately 1928, with much of the building taking place in the early 1930s. The owners rather than the developers hired builders; this turned the new homeowners into designers and enabled them to custom order their homes. This accounts for the unique characteristics of each home. The people who came to build their homes in this area were mostly professionals. Now, as it is then, the area known as East English Village attracts police officers, firefighters, civil servants, doctors, lawyers, and businessmen. Historically, residents of many different ethnic groups have added to the diversity of our community. In 1950, construction in the neighborhood had ceased. **The number of families had settled to approximately 2100**, and most have only changed hands two or three times. There are a great number of residents who have lived their entire lives in our community, built their homes and are now retired or live in the homes that their parents originally built.

By 1976, residents in the area became concerned about the stability and safety of the neighborhood. Many of the concerned residents were older people who were original owners of their homes. They were feeling pressured by their children and friends who resided outside of Detroit. The neighborhood had remained stable and crime-free, however, many residents were unsure of a crime-free future as they observed negative changes in other areas of the city. In **April 1976**, realtor Walter Gibbs invited a group of residents who lived on Kensington to attend a meeting at his office on Harper near Yorkshire. They shared concerns and decided to call a second meeting. More than one hundred people from neighboring streets attended and enthusiastically volunteered for committees and planned meetings. Soon the meetings took on the air of a formal organization, to which Walter Gibbs gave the name ***Detroit East Area Residents (D.E.A.R.)***. By 1980, the organization had done much to calm the fears of its residents, who came together to avoid the panic home selling that had contributed to the

deterioration of so many other urban neighborhoods. In 1990, the residents chose to give the area a new name that would reflect the homes of the community and give it an identity of its own. Because of the predominance of English country-style homes and the majority of English street names, it was agreed to name the area East English Village. In 1991, East English Village saw the installation of its first boundary sign with the new name at Chandler Park Drive and Cadieux Road. What will the next 30 years of history say about EEV?

Present Day

We currently have 65% of our blocks covered by a Block Captain or Street Rep along with several committee chairs and our Executive Board who continue moving our neighborhood forward. However, the housing issues we face are having a devastating effect on our community. Everything from squatters, unkempt rental housing, and bulk investor purchases are driving our longtime residents away as homes sit unoccupied and unsecured or occupied with tenants conducting illegal activity on the premises.

In 2012, we had two of our first homes demolished and this year we've demolished three homes, within two blocks. And, there are ten homes in EEV that are currently on the demolition list. If we continue to demolish homes, EEV will look like the average Detroit neighborhood. Instead of demolishing homes, why can't we enforce code and keep them maintained? We've had an annual Home Tour for the past three years and continually attract 300-400 people. There are owner occupants interested in buying homes in the neighborhood.

The Detroit Land Bank Authority (DLBA) purchased 41 homes in EEV and did a fantastic job renovating and selling 20 of those homes to owner occupants; we've had a great deal of success with the program. However, the DLBA wasn't able to renovate the remaining 21 homes due to a lack of funding and have recently sold them to an investment group – Fortus Group (based in California). Additionally, Metro Homes owns ~40 homes in our community and are currently dealing with several legal issues that have left all but 5 or 6 homes vacant. (The only good thing is that they're secured...although, that doesn't stop trespassers from hanging out on the porch of the homes.)

As well, we have many homes that appear to have fallen through the cracks; here are a few...

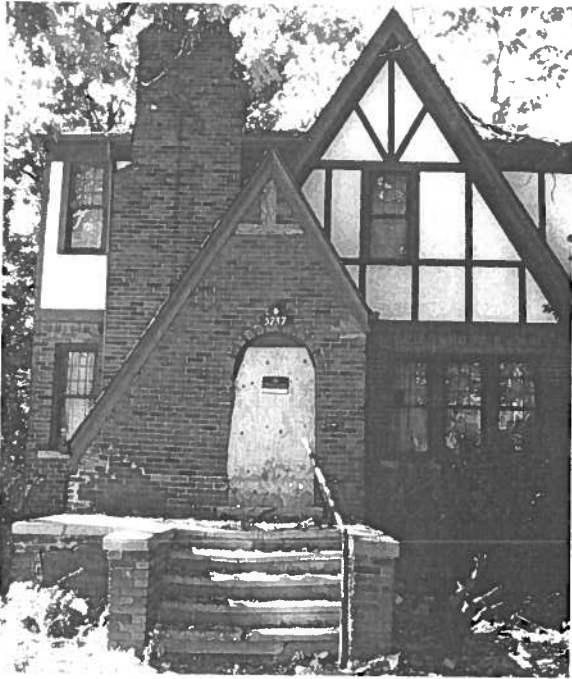
4140 Harvard – taxes unpaid for 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012; presumed squatter in the home.

4344 Yorkshire – taxes were unpaid for several years; residents may have purchased the home in a HUD auction although the record still shows that it's in the previous owner's name (who is now deceased). Presumed illegal activity taking place at the home.

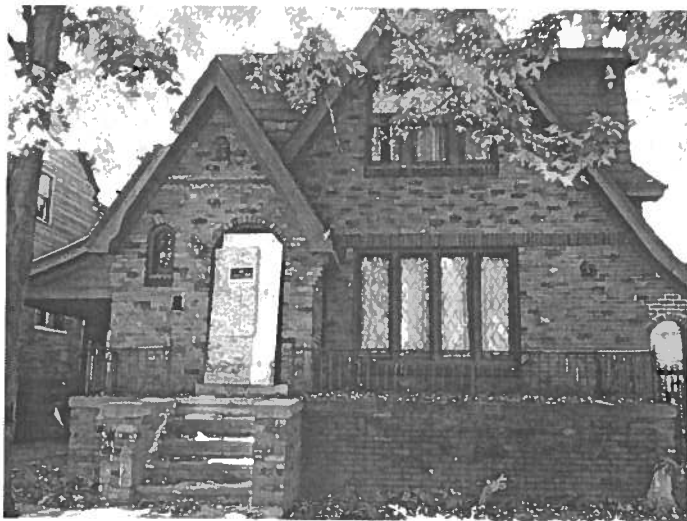
6012 Whittier – taxes unpaid for 2010, 2011, and 2012; presumed squatter in the home.

6144 Yorkshire – squatter who resided at the home for more than 3 years allegedly fired shots at her neighbor for calling DTE to have her utilities shut-off for being turned on illegally. Home was recently foreclosed by Wayne County.

The following 5 sequential homes are vacant and unsecured:



5737 Yorkshire – Public Art Workz shows 2010, 2011, and 2012 outstanding taxes.



5745 Yorkshire – (currently on the demolition list) Foreclosed Property



5751 Yorkshire – HUD shows 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012 outstanding taxes.



5759 Yorkshire – owned by HSBC Bank USA



5767 Yorkshire – (currently on the demolition list) Foreclosed Property

We need everyone's support and assistance! The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department is willing to suspend water at the homes of squatters. However, DTE Energy says they don't get involved in property ownership issues and will not suspend utilities for anyone if they have an account and are paying their bill.

We need your assistance to take back our neighborhood and return it to its former glory. Our housing stock is still absolutely amazing and just needs some TLC by residents who care!

How can you help?

- ❖ **Assist in creating legislation to suspend service for anyone proven to be illegally residing in a house.**
- ❖ **Ensure that Wayne County is moving swiftly to obtain foreclosed properties, securing them, and auctioning them in a timely manner.**
- ❖ **Ensure that "Section 8" Housing is inspected, at minimum, on an annual basis. (Perhaps, require minor home repair training or some level of community involvement/maintenance for recipients.)**
- ❖ **Assist with providing an incentive to owners who want to walk away from their property to expedite the foreclosure process.**
- ❖ **Assist with obtaining grants to assist with property maintenance.**
- ❖ **Assist with providing home repair workshops.**
- ❖ **Provide resources to assist EEV in becoming a 501c3 non-profit organization.**

Thank you for listening and your consideration!

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